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Man Charged with Series of Arson Fires

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan said that a Chicopee man was arrested last night in Great Barrington and charged with setting a series of fires in several southern Berkshire County communities over the past several years. Stuart Zimbrowski, 54-years old, of 449 Oldfield Rd. Chicopee, is charged with 15 brush fires, four building fires, two counts of breaking and entering in the daytime, two counts of larceny of a building and seven counts of larceny under \$250. He is being held on \$200,000 cash bail and will be arraigned this morning in Pittsfield District Court. He may face additional charges in New York state.

This is the result of a long-term investigation involving multiple jurisdictions including State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the New York State Police, the fire and police departments of Dalton, Egremont, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, New Marlborough, Sandisfield, Sheffield and Stockbridge. The investigation also included Massachusetts State Police from the Lee Barracks, the Air Wing, and Crime Scene Services. The case will be prosecuted by Berkshire District Attorney David Capeless' Office and further information will come through that office.

Among the fires he is charged with setting is a vacant apartment building on Main Street in Great Barrington, a barn on Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) property in Sandisfield, and the same building in New Marlborough twice.

Coan said, "I want to commend the great investigative effort by so many fire and law enforcement agencies. This was a tremendous effort that has removed a serial arsonist from the community before he progressed from brush fires and vacant buildings to occupied ones." He added, "Arson is not a victimless crime even when no one is hurt in a fire; the fear and anxiety communities feel in addition to the loss of property, significantly impacts the quality of life."

District Attorney Capeless added, "We should all be heartened by this extraordinary investigative effort. Our communities can feel relieved at the arrest, but also renewed confidence in our Fire Marshal's Office and the many other local agencies to keep our communities safe."

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